

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 11, 2003. Claims 30 to 39 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 to 29 having been canceled and Claims 30 to 39 having been added. Claims 30 and 35 to 39 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The title has been amended to reflect the currently claimed invention.

The specification has been amended to address some typographical errors noted in a review of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Accompanying this Amendment is a Replacement Sheet for Fig. 27 of the Drawings. The Replacement Sheet incorporates changes to block S2703 by changing the text contained therein from "LOCATION IS POSSIBLE TO DISPLAY MAP?" to read --LOCATION IS POSSIBLE TO DISPLAY ON MAP?--, to change the text in block S2712 from "DISPLAY DEVICE ICON CORRESPONDING TO DEVICE COLUMN OF UNKNOWN MAP" to read --DISPLAY DEVICE ICON CORRESPONDING TO DEVICE ON DEVICE COLUMN OF UNKNOWN MAP--, and to switch the YES and NO branches of block S2709. The Examiner is requested to approve of the Replacement Sheet and the changes incorporated therein.

Turning now to the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 to 15, 18, 19 and 22 to 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,480,863 (Scheifler), and Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 16, 17, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Scheifler in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,229,540 (Tonelli). Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, the rejections are believed to be obviated by the

cancellation of Claims 1 to 29. Nonetheless, Applicants submit that newly-added Claims 30 to 39 are allowable over the art of record for at least the following reasons.

The present invention concerns a client computer (such as a personal computer) that sets location information of a device (such as a printer) that is not registered in, for example, a server, and transmits the set location information to the device so that the location information can be stored in the device. According to the invention, a user at an information processing apparatus (such as client 111) inputs a search condition for searching for devices. For example, the user may input a request to search for printers on the second floor of a particular building that is part of an enterprise. The client 111 receives from, for example, a server, search results, which include devices that satisfy the search condition. The search results are displayed on a display of the client and the displayed devices are identifiable as to whether or not location information of a device is registered in, for example, the server. As an example, a map may be displayed with devices whose location information has been registered being displayed on the map at their registered location in the form of an icon. Devices for which location information has not been registered may be displayed outside of the map. Thus, the user can readily identify from the display those devices on the network that have registered location information from those that have not been registered. Utilizing the map and icons, for example, the user can set location information of a device whose location information is not registered, among devices included in the search results, by simply locating (i.e., drag-and-drop) the icon of the unregistered device onto the map and selecting an option to store (save) the location information. The client then transfers the set location information to the device whose location information is not registered, where the set location information may be

stored in the device itself. For the Examiner's convenience, support for the foregoing can be found in the specification at page 31, line 17 to page 35, line 11.

As a result of the foregoing, a user can readily discern which devices have registered location information from those that do not have registered location information. Additionally, the user can set the location information of the unregistered devices using, for example, the map and icon of the device, such that the location information is set at the client and then transferred to and registered in the device itself.

With specific reference to the claims, newly-added independent Claim 30 is an information processing apparatus, comprising an input unit arranged to input a search condition for searching for devices, a reception unit arranged to receive search results based on the search condition input by the input unit, a display unit arranged to identifiably display whether or not location information of a device included in the search results received by the reception unit is registered, a setting unit arranged to set location information of a device whose location information is not registered, among devices included in the search results, and a transfer unit arranged to transfer the location information set by the setting unit to the device whose location information is not registered.

Newly-added independent Claims 36 and 38 are method and computer-medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 30.

Newly-added independent Claim 35 is an information processing apparatus, comprising a display unit arranged to display icons respectively corresponding to a plurality of devices, a setting unit arranged to set location information of a device corresponding to an icon of the device, from among the displayed icons, being designated

at a location on a map, and a transfer unit arranged to transfer the location information set by the setting unit to the device represented by the icon whose location is designated on the map.

Newly-added independent Claims 37 and 39 are method and computer-medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 35.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention. In particular, and with regard to Claims 30, 36 and 38, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of identifiably displaying whether or not location information of a device included in search results is registered, setting location information of a device whose location information is not registered, and transferring the set location information to the device whose location information is not registered. With regard to Claims 35, 37 and 39, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of setting location information of a device corresponding to an icon of the device being designated at a location on a map, and a transferring the set location information to the device represented by the icon whose location is designated on the map.

Scheifler is seen to disclose a method of searching for an entry in a database system. According to the patent, a search engine searches entries located within a database using a first template, and performs a change, addition, or deletion of the searched entry in the database using a second template. Thus, Scheifler merely searches a database based on search conditions (a query) input by a user and returns results of the search. However, nothing in Scheifler is seen to disclose or to suggest that devices included in the search request are identifiably displayed on a display as to whether or not their location

information has been registered. Moreover, Applicants fail to see anything in Scheifler that discloses or suggests that when location information of a device that is not registered is set, the set location information is transferred to the device that is not registered. Rather, it merely appears that in Scheifler, when a change is made to the database entry, the change is stored in merely stored in the database without the changed information being transmitted to a device corresponding to the entry. Further, with regard to Claims 35, 37 and 39, Scheifler fails to disclose anything with regard to designating a location of a device icon on a map to set location information of the device, and transferring the set location information to the device represented by the icon whose location is designated on the map. Accordingly, Scheifler is not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of Claims 30 and 35 to 39.

Tonelli is seen to disclose a method of designing a network architecture in which a current network architecture is checked and a network architecture map is generated. The design program permits a user to add an icon to the map representing a device and to add a type of connection between devices so as to design the network architecture. In the design program, an audit may be performed to discover devices on the network, with device icons representing various types of devices discovered on the network being displayed on a layout. Discovered information may be entered into a database, and if some information is not filled-in, the user may fill-in the information manually, which is saved in the database. (See Figs. 11 and 22, and column 19, line 11 to column 22, line 19.) Thus, while Tonelli may query for devices on the network and display discovered devices on a layout, and while Tonelli may permit a user to enter information of the device into a database, there is nothing in Tonelli that discloses or suggests that the information entered

by the user in the database is transferred to the device itself. Accordingly, Tonelli is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Scheifler, would have disclosed or suggested the present invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of newly-added Claims 30 to 39 are believed to be allowable. Accordingly, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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